

AIA Montana State Government Network Committee

Position Statement for SB0054

The Montana Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) represents Architects practicing Architecture in the State of Montana.

SB0054 in partiality is an attempt to change the make up of the Montana Board of Architects to represent Landscape Architects as well as Architects by the inclusion of Landscape Architects on the State Licensing Board.

The AIA did not agree with this change when proposed by the State. The primary reason for the opposition was because there are a disproportionate number of Landscape Architects to Architects, and that the licensing fee structures are quite different.

The AIA does have empathy for Landscape Architects, in that the profession of Landscape Architects does need to have a public Board look after the best interests of the Landscape Architect, and that there is little controversy between the professions. For this reason, the AIA has conceded that the attempt by the State to merge the Board will have a positive affect for the public with respect to landscape Architect licensing.

SB0054 proposes a Board whereby the Board at the present time will represent 93 licensed landscape Architects and 1210 licensed Architects. The AIA believes that the bill proposes a disproportionate number of professionals and requests the change of the Board make up to be 3 Licensed Architects as currently defined and separated, 1 Public member, and 1 Licensed Landscape Architect.

The State is opening the Statute for changes and the AIA requests that 37-65-102 (6) "*Public Building*" means *any building that the State or any political subdivision of the State maintains for the use of the public*" be revised.

The AIA continues to maintain a high quality of knowledge and education by virtue of its membership. The changes proposed herein ascribes to our values and eliminates a loop hole whereby the public may be confused as to what is public, whether owned by the State and its subdivisions, or used by the public and owned by private stakeholders.

The Montana Chapter AIA proposes a change worded as follows:

37-65-102 (6) "Public Building" means a building or facility owned or operated by a governmental entity or a private sector building or facility that is open to members of the public.

The public health safety and welfare is a primary reason for the proposed changes noted within this statement. The confusion of the public in regard to this statute, and the vagaries implied by the varied use of the term "public" in numerous Montana Statutes has prompted the AIA to bring this question to the committee. The change will define public building in a way that uses the same language defined in MCA Title 50, Chapter 60-101 Definitions of the Building Construction Standards.

Respectfully Submitted
William P Grant AIA - Chairman
Montana State Government Network Committee
Montana Chapter American Institute of Architects

